

In – Fur – Nation

Your Guide to the World of Furry Fandom

Volume 13, Number 3

Our Motto: *All The News We Get, We Print!*

Fall/Winter 2002



Stitch c. 2002, Walt Disney Productions

"Abomination." "Monstrosity." [Captain Gantu, describing Stitch, in Disney's *Lilo & Stitch*]

Hey, look, it's them again! Yes folks, we are back for more, no matter what the Fickle Furry of Fate might throw our way.

If it's not patently obvious, the summer issue of In-Fur-Nation for 2002 simply vanished into the ether. A dozen things came up, some of them legit, many of them just plain dumb. The upswing is, there went the issue. Some of the news items from that issue have been moved here. Some of the items, obviously, are old news by now. Please "bear" with us as we try to catch up – And we thank you for your patience. [To our subscribers: Don't worry, we know that we owe you an 'extra' issue now. It's taken care of – *ye ed-otter.*]

The mysterious ConFurence 2002 has passed us by, once again at our new home in Burbank. You'll find much more about what went on and what's going to happen, later in this issue. But first, hear now the news...

Looking back on Summer, 2002... and then, back up to date!

Disney Pictures new 2D animated film *Lilo & Stitch* was off and running, after nearly pulling off the impossible: Coming within a hair's breadth (as in \$400k) of beating **Tom Cruise** and **Steven Spielberg** to the top of the box office! Still, at \$35 million plus, *Stitch* and friends now hold the record for the second-highest opening weekend ever for a 2D animated film – after Disney's own *Lion King*. Co-director **Chris Sanders** was sure a busy guy, as he also came up with the story concept, wrote the script, and provided the voice for *Stitch*. (His directing partner is **Dean DeBlois**.) For the moment, *Lilo & Stitch* seems to have quieted the argument that 2D animation is a dying art form, at least commercially. A follow-up TV series to the movie is already in pre-production. **Daveigh Chase**, the voice of Lilo, has said in an interview that she is campaigning to be the voice for the TV series also, but that producers are worried her voice will change soon. (If you didn't know, young Ms. Chase also starred in another big movie of the late summer, the horror film *The Ring*. How's that for a varied career?)

Dreamworks' traditionally-animated film *Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron* turned out to be a worthwhile bet, holding its own in what has turned out to be a crowded summer for movies. It opened well (#3 for its opening weekend), it received good reviews, and (no pun intended) it showed pretty good legs. Unfortunately, it never managed to cross the \$100 million mark.

Meanwhile, before *Spiderman* and *Star Wars Episode II* came along to knock over everything in their path, Fox's 3d-CGI film *Ice Age* quietly became a blockbuster. By the time it left the theaters it had earned more than \$175 million, and it was the first film released in 2002 to cross the

century mark (\$100 million). The new DVD release of *Ice Age* features a brand new short CGI cartoon, *Scratch's Missing Adventure*.

Later on in the summer, Disney's *The Country Bears* came and went without much notice from anybody. The DVD comes out this December, with extra features including a biography of the Country Bear band (VH1 style) and a concert special which aired on ABC. Speaking of bears, Disney insiders say *Bears* will be the next fall animated feature, released in 2003, with the cow adventure *Home on the Range* moved to fall of 2004. [*Bears* has nothing to do with *The Country Bears*; instead it's the story of a Native American who finds himself transformed into a bear.]

Found at Flayrah.com last May: "Universal Pictures is in final negotiations to option Astonish Comics' property *Herobear & the Kid* to be produced as an animated feature for Chuck Gordon's Daybreak Productions and Adrian Askarieh's Prime Universe Productions. Created by animator **Mike Kunkel**, the comic book series is about a little boy named Tyler who inherits a stuffed polar teddy bear from his dead grandfather. The bear comes to life as a superhero and the duo embarks on adventures together. Their adventures touch on such childhood themes as new schools, bullies, love and imagination. Kunkel is attached to direct the project and will co-write the script with **Jeph Loeb**. Loeb will executive produce the material, which is being overseen at the studio by production president Mary Parent and VP of Production Dylan Clark." (Written by Zorianna Kit)

All of Japan is a-buzz about *The Cat Returns*, the latest anime feature from Studio Ghibli (*Princess Mononoke*, *Spirited Away*). Directed by **Hiroyuki Morita**, it follows the adventures of a young human girl who is transported to a world of talking cats – and changed into one herself. Now she must decide whether to return home and change back, or to accept her new life. No word yet on when or if the film is going to be released in an English or subtitled version. Keep your eyes on www.nausicaa.net (the **Miyazaki** / Studio Ghibli fan site) for more details and news.

In theaters now is *The Wild Thornberrys Movie* from Klasky-Csupo, Nickelodeon Movies, and Paramount Pictures. The animated feature brings

Eliza Thornberry (and her animal-speaking powers), her wildlife-adventuring family, and a host of dangers from TV to the big screen. The film also features a brand new song by **Paul Simon**, his first in quite a while.

Seems that someone at Disney must've got the idea this is gonna be big: The re-release of *The Lion King* to IMAX theaters was pushed up from January 1st, 2003 to Christmas Day, 2002!

Phenomena sneaking in and nibbling on us when we're not looking... One of the most popular children's TV shows in Japan, *Hamtaro* (created by **Ritsuko Kawai**) premiered on Cartoon Network last June. It follows the story of a young girl, who must get used to new friends and new places in a new town – with the help of her pet hamster, Hamtaro, and all his friends! The release of *Hamtaro* in English has been accompanied by a mini-merchandizing blitz, including *The Official Hamtaro Handbook* (published by Viz Communications).

The popular anime fantasy/comedy *Dragon Half* is now available on DVD from A.D. Vision. Young Mink has a problem: Her mother is a dragon, her father is a human knight, and she has a habit of switching from human to dragon at the most inopportune times!

All three of the live-action *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle* movies (the good, the bad, and the ancient Japan!) have now been released on DVD from Comic Themes.

Episodes of the popular anime series *Inu Yasha* (with its grey-haired fox guy!) are now available on DVD from Viz Video. And, of course, translated episodes are playing on Cartoon Network.

Out recently from Image Comics: *Liberty Meadows Collection, Book 1: Eden*. According to the publishers (the new home of *Liberty Meadows*, by the way), "This book collects the first 9 issues of the award-winning and totally uncensored *Liberty Meadows* for the first time in a massive volume". This 128-page black & white trade paperback is brought to you by the pen (and ink) of **Frank Cho**, of course.

Newly discovered at San Diego Comic Con this

year: *Hip Flask – Unnatural Selection*. With full-color art from illustrator **Ladronn**, this 32-page one-shot comic from ComiCraft (available with four different covers!) presents the origin of the recom hippo gumshoe Hieronymous Flask as a genetic creation fighting to escape his evil masters. It also serves as a lead-in to the upcoming miniseries *Hip Flask: The Big Here & The Long Now*, which will hit the stores in February of 2003. Brought to you by **Ladronn**, **Starkings**, and **Joe Casey**. Find out more at www.hipflask.com.

New from this last summer: A special collection from ACG Comics, *Atomic Animals Power Pet Pack*. Featuring one black & white issue each of *Atomic Cat*, *Atomic Mouse*, and *Atomic Bunny*, all bound together and sold for \$10.95.

The creator of the really weird comic *Lenore*, **Roman Dirge**, returned this summer with something... well, really weird. *The Cat with a Really Big Head* is the story of just that – a cat with an enormous skull, and all the trials and troubles of his life. In digest format, black & white, from Slave Labor Graphics.

More strangeness from SLG, for the holidays: *Gloomcookie – A Monster's Christmas* by **Valentino and Burns**. In this full-color special issue, the Monster (a horned, furry demon type) eagerly awaits the arrival of Santa Claus. This monster had better get what's on his wish list... or else!

By now the news has probably reached you that *Thundercats* has returned in a new full-color comic book miniseries. Well now Wildstorm Press (an imprint of DC Comics) presents the new *Thundercats Sourcebook*, for those of you who need to catch up on the story and background. Created by series writer **Ford Gilmore**, this full-color one-shot features illustrations by a slew of artists; including **Arthur Adams**, **Jim Lee**, **Ale' Garza**, **Humberto Ramos**, and many more.

From this last summer: DC Comics' "Elseworld" series of alternate universe stories continued with *JLA: The Island of Dr. Moreau*. In 1887, a shipwreck survivor stumbles across Dr.

Moreau... who has been experimenting with genetics, and who has combined the abilities of several animal types into man/beast hybrids... who strangely resemble familiar superheroes... Their first mission? Travel to London and stop Jack the Ripper before he kills again!

Speaking of genetic constructs, **Jeff Amano** (creator of *Tao*) returns with *Gene Fusion 2310 AD*, a full-color comic which follows the adventures of a group of hybrid mutant animals who're bred to fight and die in gladiatorial combat. It comes to you from Beckett Entertainment.

From Angry Naked Comics (we don't make these things up, people) comes *Monkey Man: Unleashed* by **Brian Lynch** and **D.J. Coffman**. Monkey Man and Monkey Boy work to save their city from the terror of a giant robot who's out killing Internet geeks. All the while, Monkey Man tries not to break his duty to avoid violence – lest he find himself in prison again!

You-might-have-missed-it: *The Way of the Rat*, an oriental adventure/fantasy published by Crossgen Comics and brought to you by **Dickson**, **Johnson**, **Ryder**, and **Garcia**. This full-color series follows the adventures of a sneak thief known as the Jade Rat, and his troubles when he stumbles upon a magical ring. One of his closest companions is a talking, smart-mouthed, ass-kicking monkey!

For fans of furry anime and manga, look for *Tea Club* by **PMBQ** (published by Icarus). In this black & white one-shot, young cat girl Hana Neko is pleased to discover that there's a tea club at her new college campus – but *not* so pleased to discover that the club president is a big, scruffy bear!

Warpton Comics presents the premier issue of *Nature's Guard*, based on the CGI on-line animation (www.naturesguard.com). On the far-off world of Forestya, a group of humanoid mammals wages war against the evil plans of the Spidersect Empire. Brought to you by **Jonathan Bryans**, **Leonard Kirk**, and **Terry Pallot**, this is the start of a three-issue miniseries.

The final chapter of **Rod Espinosa's** much-acclaimed graphic-novel series *Courageous Princess* has been released by Antarctic Press. In *The Kingdom of Leptia*, the closing chapter of this full-color adventure, Princess Mablerose and her friend, the talking porcupine named Spiky, seek to hide from the dragons pursuing them by travelling to a land of cat-people.

If-you've-been-missing-it department... *Fables* is a long-running comic book title from DC Comics/Vertigo, that presents us with stories a Fabletown – A mythical realm where all your favorite storybook characters live in a decidedly modern world. In the new "Animal Farm" story arc (brought to you by **Willingham, Buckingham, Leialoha, and Jean**), Fabletown deputy mayor Snow White decides to take a vacation by returning Colin Piggy to The Farm, where non-human fables reside... and where danger, intrigue, and murder await them.

Coming in January from DC/Vertigo is *The Sandman Presents: Bast* by **Caitlan Kiernan, Joe Bennett, and Dave McKean**. It seems that the ancient cat goddess is dying... without worshippers, she is doomed to waste away to nothing. But a small-town girl named Lucy wants to help her rebuild her following and her powers...

Tellos returns with the long-awaited third installment of the anthology series – *Tellos: Suns and Moons*. In this new full-color issue (from writer **Todd DeZago** and illustrators **Carlo Barberi, Eric Hanson, and Thor Badendyck**) a pirate queen first meets an adventurer, Hawke gets his wings, and dark clues are revealed that lead up to the upcoming *Tellos: Second Coming* story arc. From Image Comics, of course.

Coming in January from Image Comics: Duncan is a teenager with an unusual set of problems. He's orange, he has bat wings, and he breathes fire! It seems that his mother, a human, wants him to study hard and go to college... while his father, a 300-foot tall rampaging monster named Belloc, wants him to smash cities and take over the planet! Such are the troubles we find in the premiere issue of *Firebreather* by **Phil Hester and Andy Kuhn**.

Spacehack is a new black & white comic by **Doug Curtis**. From the pages of the popular *Knights of the Dinner Table*, Captain Queue and his strange star-hopping crew now have their own three-issue miniseries – including the big, furry head of security.

The first four-issue story arc of **Richard Moore's** popular fantasy/horror/comedy comic book series *Boneyard* have been collected in a new black & white trade paperback from NBM books.

Wallace and Gromit have returned in a brand new full-color hardback comic from Titan, *Catch of the Day* by **Jimmy Hansen**. Wallace and his canine friend try to discover what sinister force is causing a shortage of fish at the local chip shop.

Pubo is a new black & white miniseries by Xeric Award Winner **Leland Purvis** and Dark Horse Press. Pubo, the result of a bizarre medical experiment, finds himself lost among the humans and animals in a deep, dark forest in the Pacific Northwest.

Dark Horse Press has also released the new *Usagi Yojimbo* collection, *The Shrouded Moon* (by **Stan Sakai**, of course) in trade paperback and limited edition hardcover. This new black & white collection focuses on stories of the rabbit samurai and his closest companions and allies. Also available again are the previous trade paperbacks *Grasscutter* and *The Brink of Life and Death*.

In addition to spawning a top-selling DVD, this last fall Disney/Pixar's *Monsters, Inc.* brought about a brand new black & white manga from Tokyo Pop. Showing the Japanese take on the story (in english), this manga softcover also features collectible stickers.

From AIT/Planet Lar, the publishers of *Sky Ape*, comes another new monkey: Rex Mantooth, gorilla about town and crack super-spy. You can find out more by picking up *The Annotated Mantooth* trade paperback, brought to you in black & white by **Fraction, Kuhn, and Fisher**.

The strange fantasy/comedy comic *Gutwallow the Gingerbread Man* by **Dan Berger** has a new story arc in the miniseries called "Fury of the Furry". It seems that Gutwallow has hooked up with a fox-like warrior lady named Miyoki.

Sin Factory (the adult imprint of Radio Comix) proudly presents the *Skunkworks Collection Volume 1* Trade Paperback. Collecting numerous shorts from issues of *Genus* and *Skunkworks*, this thick black & white volume (128 pages) features creator **James Hardiman**, his lizard-friend Desiree, and those crazy-sexy skunk girls in all kinds of comic and kinky adventures. The collection also features extra pin-up prints, and a brand new addendum to the "Drivers' Ed" story – featuring the girls' equally sexy mom! In another part of furrydom, this coming January look for the release of *Genus Male #2*, featuring male-on-male furry comic stories by **Daria McGrain**, **John Barrett**, and **Michael Vega**. Also on the shelves now from Sin Factory is *Amy's Adventures #1* by **Brian Sutton**, **Joe Rosales**, and others. This black & white comic, following the silly adventures of a striped furry slave girl, is collected together from the early issues of *Genus*.

Radio Comix has collected the complete *Gold Digger: Edge Guard* miniseries in a new black & white trade paperback. The only official *Gold Digger* spin-off series, created by **John Barrett**, ran seven issues – all included here, along with the original "Edge Guard" story from the *Gold Digger Annual*. Danger, adventure, and intrigue among the were-critters. Meanwhile, in the premiere issue of *Space Race*, the young rabbit-girl Carrot and her friend Dot ready themselves for the Space Race, a giant sports free-for-all. Manga-style fun brought to you by **Favio Montoya**.

Shanda Fantasy Arts, home of *Shanda the Panda*, *Extinctioners*, and *Katmandu*, is now the home of *Furry Ninja High School* as well! Created in collaboration with Antarctic Press (home of the original *Ninja High School* by **Ben Dunn**), this new black & white series features stories by **Mike Curtis** and **Tin Crash**, as well as **Jon Crusoe** and **Heather Maranda**. The cover to issue #1 was created by *E-Man* creator

Joe Staton, who will be Guest of Honor at ConFurence 2003 [Read On!]. Also out from SFA is the first *SFA Swimsuit Special*, featuring many cool artists, many cool characters, and a new cover by **Terrie Smith**. The trade paperback collection of *Here Comes A Candle* by **Mary Hanson-Roberts** has been re-printed and made available at a special lower price for the holidays. Also new for the holidays is the release of the one-shot black & white comic *The Humpty Dumpty Chronicles* by **Michael Perkins**, illustrated by **Alison Williams**. It's the story of Humpty Dumpty – brave night, protector of the people and animal-folk of the Hedge, and his battle against the evils of Black Rolph and his army of trolls. Hey! While you're at it, look for *SFA Spotlight #15: Women in Fur 2002*.

Coming early next year is the return of *Stewart the Rat*. *Howard the Duck* creators **Steve Gerber** and **Gene Colan** first published this full-color graphic novel, following the adventures of a humanized rat in the seedy parts of Los Angeles, back in 1980. Now it's available again from About Comics, LLC.

Astonish Comics, home of *Herobear & the Kid*, presents the 2nd issue of **Scott Christian Sava's** computer-drawn furry comic *The Lab*. Along with it comes the release of new *Lab* t-shirts – the first featuring Livingston the Mole.

Upcoming from Better Comics: Issues 1 – 4 of **J.E. Smith's** surreal black & white comic *Complex City* have been collected in a new trade paperback, *All In A Day's Work*, along with 30 extra pages of brand-new material. Bulldog Malone, top cop in Complex City (and yes, he's a dog) faces the threat of a shape-shifting monster known as the Crazy Quilt.

Certainly a memorable title: *Sshhh!* by **Jason** is a collection of illustrated tales without words, ranging from the surreal to the poignant, featuring animal-headed characters. The 120-page, softcover black & white collection is available from Fantagraphics Books. Also from Fantagraphics: *Quimby the Mouse* is a new trade paperback by **Chris Ware**. It utilizes a retro 1920's/1930's animation style of artwork to tell a very modern tale of angst and spiritual

questing. It's available in hardcover and softcover editions.

Boulevard of Broken Dreams is a new hardcover graphic novel by **Kim Deitch**. It's the story of Teddy Mishkin, animator for the cartoon series *Fontaine's Fables* in 1930's New York. What most people of the day don't realize is that Waldo the Cat, star of the *Fontaine* series, is not a cartoon creation – he's very real, and he's Terry's able-if-crazy assistant! From Random House.

From Warner Books comes *The Hand Behind the Mouse*, a new biographer of animation pioneer **Ub Iwerks** by **Leslie Iwerks** and **John Kenworthy**. Iwerks, whom Walt Disney once called "The greatest animator in the world", was instrumental in the creation of Mickey Mouse and his first cartoons. Ub was also the innovator who created the concepts of the multiplane camera, the optical printer, the travelling matte, and other inventions so vital to animation and filmmaking. Later in his life he was a mentor to many a famous animator, including **Friz Freleng** and **Chuck Jones**.

The full-color graphic novel *Star Trek: The Next Generation – The Gorn Crisis* by **Kevin J. Anderson**, **Rebecca Moesta**, and **Igor Kordey** (as reviewed previously in these very pages) has been released in a softcover edition by Wildstorm (DC Comics).

Disney animator and voice-actor **Tony Anselmo** has collected reprints of his vast collection of Disney film and cartoon short posters into the new *Disney Poster Book*. This hardcover collection from Warner Books also features an introduction by **Leonard Maltin**.

Dragonhenge is a new illustrated hardcover story collection by **John Grant**, filled profusely with full-color illustrations by **Bob Eggleton**. In ancient times before the dawn of humans, the world was ruled by dragons – and here, they tell their stories and myths to one another. Available from Sterling Publishing.

The Disney Company's recent forays into the world of Broadway shows are chronicled in the new book *Disney on Broadway* by **Michael Lassell**. Included in this hardcover book are

behind-the-scenes stories on the creation of *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Lion King*, and the new non-furry musical *Aida*.

If-you've-not-seen-it-yet department: *Insanely Twisted Rabbits* creator **Michel Gagne** has returned with a brand-new full-color version of his illustrated story *A Search For Meaning – The Story of Rex*. Rex, a small red fox, goes on a spiritual quest – which takes him on all sorts of surreal adventures.

Carson the Muskrat from *Dork Tower* is now available as a cloisonné' pin. Meanwhile, **John Kovalic's** original black & white Carson comic strip, *Wild Life*, has been re-released in a new book, *Wild Life: The Cardinal Collection* from Dork Storm Press.

Unusual products: In March of 2003, Dark Horse Comics will be offering a series of illustrated stationery sets. One of them, the "Dragons" set, features artwork by **Bob Eggleton**. Each set features 8 letter sheets with different designs, 6 envelopes with different designs, and 4 stickers.

Is it just us, or have the video/computer game manufacturers gone bananas with new funny-animal games this year? Besides *Starfox Adventures* (*Dinosaur Planet*), which everyone knows about by now, there's *Blinx: The Time Sweeper* (a cat) and *Sneakers* (mice vs. rats) for the X-Box; *Rattle & Clank* (a furry... something, with big weapons!) and *Sly Cooper* (international raccoon thief) for the Playstation 2; *Animal Crossing* (all kinda critters!) for the Gamecube; and *Reign of Fire* (evil dragons) for all three systems. Whew!

Political furies: Free-speech advocates The Comic Book Legal Defense Fund have a new T-Shirt design ("Who you tellin' to shut up?") featuring a well-armed cat-girl by **Amanda Conner** and **Jimmy Palmiotti**. Look them up at your local comic store, or check out www.cblddf.org.

Obituaries: Two well-known Disney animators left us this last summer...

Bill Peet, 87, passed away last May. A senior story-man for many years (he wrote the screenplay for *101 Dalmatians*), Peet was also the animator of such characters as Dumbo, B'rer Rabbit, and characters in *Cinderella*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *Sleeping Beauty*, and *The Sword in the Stone*. After leaving Disney, Peet became a full-time writer and illustrator of children's books – and many people (you're ed-otter included) have fond memories of books like *Farewell to Shady Glade*, *The Greenish Purplish Bluish Egg*, *The Whingdingdilly*, and many others. *Bill Peet: An Autobiography*, published in 1989 and profusely illustrated, is a big favorite among animation fans.

Ward Kimball, 88, left us in June. Ward was long a favorite character himself among toon fans – both for his animation and for his own famously nutty personality. One of Disney's "Nine Old Men" who helped Walt get things going way back at the start, Ward worked on everything from *Snow White* and *Pinocchio* (Jiminy Cricket was his) to *Alice in Wonderland* and *Mary Poppins*. In the shorts department, Kimball directed the award-winning *Toot*, *Whistle*, *Plunk*, and *Boom* and *It's Tough to be a Bird*, as well goofy science fiction shorts like *Man in Space* and *Mars and Beyond*. In the early 1970's, Ward was the guiding hand behind the strange Disney syndicated TV show *The Mouse Factory*.

From David Bliss <Rivercoon@wmn.net>:

Videographers! We need your footage. Several people attended ConFurErence 2002 with video camera in hand. Of those who talked to our video coordinator David Bliss only two have handed in footage. If you have any video taken at CF2002 we would like to get copies to use in the Official Highlights tape. Please email Rivercoon@wmn.net ASAP so arrangements can be made.

"Also cute and fluffy!!" [Stitch, describing Stitch, in Disney's *Lilo & Stitch*]

Furry Stuff has ConFurrence Stuff! The original ConFurrence General Store (for ConFurrences 0 – 10) has moved to the new

Furry Stuff web portal. Check them out at www.furrystuff.com to find out more – soon, pictures of what's available will be up on-line. Three of the popular ConFurrence T-Shirt designs are still available for a limited time: "Furries in Force" (black on honey-color) by **Eric Schwartz** from CF7, "Furries in Love" (black and pink on grey) by **Rachael Cawley** from CF9, and "Sydney's World" (Sydney on a colored globe on green) by **Ken Sample** from CF10. Plus, a very few of **Mitch Beiro's** colorful "Furries in Space" T-shirts remain (write for sizes available). They also still offer the *ConFurrence Seven Highlights Video*, as well as the brand new *ConFurrence Eight – Music and Mirth* and *ConFurrence Nine – Furries in Love* highlights videos too! And coming soon, a special combination video from CF5 and CF6! Not to mention many cool prints and extra Souvenir Books from past ConFurrences! To find a complete list, visit the Furry Stuff web site, or send them an SASE at: Furry Stuff, P.O. Box 1958, Garden Grove, CA 92842-1958.

What, you're looking for **NEW** ConFurrence Stuff? **The ConFurrence Group**, home of ConFurrence 2002, has its own stash of stuff they want you to know about too! Still available are the full-color ConFurrence 12 T-shirt illustrated by **Mike Kazaleh**, the ConFurrence 2002 "Furry Noir" t-shirt design (in "peanut butter" brown and "jelly" purple!) by **Ed Luena**, the black & white "Detective Sydney" design for 2002 by **David Bliss**, and the ConFurrence Group™ paw-logo T-shirt (also for \$12.00. Some larger sizes are \$15.00.) Plus, remember to get your ConFurrence lapel pins! That's right, the paw-globe logo can be right on your neck for only \$8.00. If you visit their web site at www.confurrence.net, you can order this cool stuff *plus* ConFurrence 2002 memberships, Cabaret tickets, and more, on-line! For more information about new ConFurrence stuff, write them at: The ConFurrence Group, P.O. Box 84721, San Diego, CA 92138-4721.

And Now, just what you've been wanting to hear: How do I keep up my **Subscription to In-Fur-Nation?** We're glad you asked! After nearly a decade of functioning as a newsletter for ConFurrence, and a furry newsletter second, *In-Fur-Nation* is expanding its role in the furry

community by presenting you the whole length and breadth of furry: Not just comic books, animated films, picture books, and the rest, but the growing number of furry-themed fan conventions popping up around the continent, and around the world! So now, a subscription to *In-Fur-Nation* will bring you even *more* of what furry fans are looking for around the globe. Find out what to look for, and where to go! Brought right to your doorstep three times a year (spring, summer, and fall). And what's it gonna cost you? A whopping **\$5.00** for a year's subscription. That's right, for a *year*. Just send a check made out to "Furry Stuff" (and note it's for *In-Fur-Nation*), or heck, just send a \$5.00 bill in a darkened envelope. (Trust us, it's an old tradition in the 'zine community. It works). To subscribe, to find out more info, or to send us notes for our Furry News, write us at: In-Fur-Nation, P.O. Box 1958, Garden Grove, CA 92842-1958.

A Note to the staff members of our many Furry Conventions: Hey! We wanna help you get the word out! Having a cool-looking web site is a neat thing, but remember: There are still a significant number of fans out there (furry and otherwise) who don't use the World Wide Web, or who don't use it to it's full potential. For them, there's this cool old thing folks on the Internet call *Snail Mail*. That's where we come in! Send us information, and let us help you get the word out to over 1,000 furry fans, artists, dealers, and publishers in the U.S., Canada, Europe, Japan... Look below for our reasonable ad rates, and don't forget... send us text blurbs and you get in for **free!**

A Request to Our Readers: Hey, got a favorite comic or book store that carries your favorite furry titles, or that you wish would carry more? Give us their address! We'll send them a copy of *In-Fur-Nation* each quarter, and keep them abreast of the kind of comics and media that *you* would like to see on their shelves! Remember, they can't order it if they don't know it's out there! As an *alternate*: Know of any good comic zines or web sites that might be looking to trade issues?

Guess what? In-Fur-Nation is looking for Field Reporters! As an on-going feature, we're

going to present profiles of furry creators and furry-oriented companies that are helping to promote products and media of interest to funny animal fans all over. So, like to help out? Know a comic book creator, animator, publisher, or other such person in the field who'd like to discuss what furies mean to them, or to the world? Talk to them, write down what they say... then give us a write-up, about 300-500 words, and we'll include it as a blurb in an upcoming INF, and give you credit for it. [We do maintain the right to edit for clarity and length, mind you.] And hey, we're looking for **furry convention reviews and anecdotes** too! Send hard copies to the Furry Stuff address above, or, you can e-mail your submission to **Rod O'Riley** at mink@firstlight.net.

Advertising in In-Fur-Nation: For those who've been asking, ads in In-Fur-Nation come in these sizes: 1/8-page "business card" size for \$5.00 per issue, and 1/4-page size (4 1/2" tall by 3 1/4" wide) for \$10.00 per issue. Full-page inclusions can also be arranged for \$50.00 an issue. Check should be made out to Furry Stuff. Send camera-ready art and text to P.O. Box 1958, Garden Grove, CA 92842-1958, or send email to mink@firstlight.net.

(Many thanks to Darrel Exline, Fred Patten, Gary Whalen, Mark Merlino, and all the people who helped provide information for this issue both by mail and via Internet! Invaluable help was also received from the web masters of the various furry conventions out there.)

ConFurence 2002 – Furry Noir!

ConFurence 2002 (held last April) took a spooky turn this year, and more than 500 furry fans from around the globe came back to Burbank (home of both Disney and Warner Brothers Studios) to be... witnesses. The Burbank Airport Hilton Hotel was our gracious host. So much familiar... and so much new. Once again ConFurence was brought to you through the courtesy of co-chairs **Darrel Exline** and **Zsanene Klinkler**. They'll be carrying on as Co-Chairs for ConFurence 2003 (*The Furry West*), but for now let's take a look at some of the cool and mysterious happenings last April.

There were Special Guests and stuff...

Hot new mystery author **Eric Garcia**, writer of *Anonymous Rex*, *Casual Rex*, and the as-yet-unpublished *Hot'n'Sweaty Rex*, was tickled as anything that we had asked him to be a Guest of Honor. He was even *more* tickled when we accepted his offer to participate in our Friday Night Filk Concert – which he did, providing with a performance of his self-penned dinosaur-people songs. Illustrators **Roz Gibson** (creator of Jack Salem) and **Ed Luena** (*Crow of the Bear Clan*) fit in the "About time you furies recognized them!" category, and we were more than happy to finally give them their due after years of furry art and stories.

FurSuits were Presented...

ConFurence 2002 once again saw the return of the FurSuit Lounge, where costume makers and their helpers could relax for a time – and, take in some fur-suiting how-to workshops while they were there. Also returning, of course, was our Popular Vote costume awards, voted on by our membership after the Costume Presentation on Saturday... and here they are! With our congratulations to each of them:

Popular Vote, Beginners:

Zachariah, designed/built/worn by Gary Whalen

Popular Vote, Advanced:

Lutalo, designed/built/worn by Francisco

Songs were sung...

Once again the famous ConFurence Furry Filk Song contest was held on Friday night, and the audience got to pick their favorite. And, once again, we're proud to present the winner here in our pages!

Furrier Transforms by **Martin DeMello**
(to the tune of *Banned From Argo* by **Leslie Fish**)

[This references the Geek Chart
<http://www.brunching.com/images/geekchartbig>.

gif or more specifically the last entry therein:
"People Who Write Erotic Versions of Star Trek, Where All the Characters are Furies, Like Kirk is an Ocelot or Something, and They Put a Furry Version of Themselves as the Star of the Story"]

When we sneaked into Argo Port we had a brilliant plan
To seek a brand new thrill or two and get around the ban
We whipped up a transmogrifier, dialed it to 'fur'
And beamed down into town, where we created quite a stir

[Chorus] And we're banned from Argo yet again
Banned from Argo, this is getting to be a pain
We looked all cute and furry, we assured them we were tame
But Argo didn't want us just the same

Our captain was an ocelot or something of that ilk
His markings were exquisite, and his fur was soft as silk
He said he was on R&R, with nothing much to do
Apart from half the residents of Argo City Zoo

Our proper, cool first officer was rather shocked to find
A rabbit's body not exactly governed by its mind
We found him in a backroom with a door that wouldn't lock
And a line of eager women winding twice around the block

Our engineer said loudly that he hoped we didn't think
His phocine form affected his ability to drink
He proved his point repeatedly in every bar & pub
And only paused a moment when he walked into a club

Transformed into a timber wolf, our nurse looked quite a treat
She went in search of something that would send her into heat
She came back looking mad, with eyes aglow and tail atwilt

And a mouthful of the idiot who had dared to call her 'bitch'

Our doctor was a splendid sight no lady would disdain

When prowling as a lion out in all his might and mane

He staggered home exhausted, with a smile a metre wide

And a cheerful little rainbow-coloured tattoo saying 'Pride'

Now Mary Sue, our bard, was quite the hero of this tale

The range of her experiences would make the others pale

To sing about them all would take up several verses more

But modesty compels me to be silent on that score

The Ursula Major Awards (for the Best Anthropomorphics 2001)

After the success of the Best Anthropomorphic Films and TV Series of the 20th Century Awards (the Golden Paws, as it were), we decided to carry on with an annual award for what the fans like best in anthropomorphic creativity. The Ursula Major Awards are Anthropomorphic (a.k.a. Furry) Fandom's equivalents of s-f fandom's Hugo Awards, mystery fandom's Anthony Awards, horror fandom's Bram Stoker Awards, and so forth. The Ursula Majors are administered and presented by The ConFurence Group, a membership organization dedicated to promoting anthropomorphic fandom-related events. Nominations for the awards are open to the public, but voting on the final ballot is limited to members of the annual ConFurence convention. The physical award consists of an illustrated trophy certificate or plaque, designed each year by one of the ConFurence's Artist Guests-of-Honor.

Eligibility in nine categories is for works featuring intelligent &/or talking animals first published during the calendar year in question (in this case, January through December of 2001). This can include new compilations of older works, such as a new collection of previously published separate works. The

winners are chosen by popular vote among the ConFurence's membership from five finalists in each category.

And the Ursula Major winners for 2001 were:

- **Best Anthropomorphic Motion Picture** – *Shrek* (DreamWorks SKG, released May 16, 2001)
- **Best Anthropomorphic Television Series** – *Sagwa, the Chinese Siamese Cat* (CineGroupe, in association with Children's Television Workshop and IF/X Productions for PBS syndication; 20 episodes, first broadcast September 3 to September 28, 2001)
- **Best Anthropomorphic Novel** – *Casual Rex*, by **Eric Garcia** (Villard Books, 03/01)
- **Best Anthropomorphic Short Story** – "Beneath the Crystal Sea", by **Brook Hoagland** (in Hoagland's collection of original stories *Tales of Perissa*; London, United Publications, July 2001)
- **Best Anthropomorphic Other Literary Work** – *The Sound & the Fury: The Complete Hoka Stories*, by **Poul Anderson & Gordon R. Dickson** (Science Fiction Book Club, April 2001; the first complete collection of the "Hoka" stories originally published from the 1950s through the 1980s)
- **Best Anthropomorphic Comic Book or Strip** – *Usagi Yojimbo*, by **Stan Sakai** (Dark Horse, monthly comic book; 2001 issues include vol. III #45, Jan., through #53, Dec.)
- **Best Anthropomorphic Fanzine** – *Yarf!* (Published by Jeff Ferris & others; irregular; 2001 issues include #61, January, and #62, December)
- **Best Anthropomorphic Published Illustration** – *Fur Visions* #20 front cover by **XianJaguar** (Brenda DiAntonis) published by Karl Maurer in April, 2001.

- **Best Anthropomorphic Game – *Conker's Bad Fur Day*** (Developed & published by Rareware; released March 5, 2001)

Congratulations to each of the winners! **Eric Garcia** and **Xian Jaguar** were on hand to accept their awards at ConFurence, and the editors from United Publications were there to accept the short story award on **Brock Hoagland's** behalf. Our thanks to the many folks who helped to set up the awards, and our special thanks to everyone who voted! Stay tuned... keep reading for more information about the Ursa Major Awards for 2002! And here's a look at Coming Furry Attractions...

More Furry Conventions All Around!

Here's a quick look at some of the furry gatherings popping up around the country, and around the world... hopefully, we'll meet YOU at some of them ourselves!



Image c. Walt Disney Productions

Further Confusion 2003

"Furries in Wonderland" – The first five-day furry convention! January 23-27, 2003, The Doubletree Hotel, San Jose, California

We got all this stuff from the furs in charge! Take it away boys...

1. Info from the Head MadHatters

Wow, we're another month closer to the convention and its getting HOT! There are so many things going on my head is spinning. We have a ton of things in store for you. Including our new guest! See below. Many new events

and several surprises :) As we have in the past, we will still be holding our famed animal events for you and yours to enjoy. Several species are rumored to be in attendance. We will be having the largest Dealer turnout in FC history for your shopping needs and more Art Show space than ever. Fursuiting events are shaping up nicely from what I understand, with the return of Junkyard Fursuiting, Critterlympics, Fursuit Dance, Masquerade and new this year: Retro Suits! Not to mention several days of how-to's with hands on workshops. We will also be incorporating our new social track with gatherings and sigs. Our AV team also has a spectacle for your enjoyment, our first ever specific Laser Show! Lindz has brought his gear in the past for the dances, now experience his art mano-a-mono with an hour or more of light fantastic in LaserStripes! As we continue to strive to educate our audience we will continue to put together an awesome writing, art and sci track as well. You will need a clone to experience all we have to offer, caffeine available! And last but not least, FCTV! The hotel has granted us the use of their close circuit television network and we plan on showing con event reruns, interviews and unique material throughout the course of the con. If you would like to show something either you have copyright for, or is not copyrighted and PG rated, please send us a note to info@furtherconfusion.org. Do the same if there is anything you, our honored guests, wish to see or do at FC.

Chairo (Lee Strom) - Chairman

Aetobatus (Michael Sawyer) - Vice Chairman

2. Introducing Guest of Honor **Toby Bluth**

Toby Bluth is a talented animator, artist, director, and entrepreneur. He was born on a farm in Utah and grew up with his many brothers and sisters, including Don Bluth. Mr. Bluth is, perhaps, best known as the Art Director for the widely acclaimed Disney film, *The Tigger Movie*. In addition, he has directed *Babes in Toyland* for MGM and *The Santa Claus Story* for CBS.

Mr. Bluth has also directed Dramalog Award-winning productions of *Peter Pan* and *Babes in*

Toyland for the stage among 120 other productions. He has published nine children's books which he wrote and illustrated featuring many anthropomorphic characters. He and brother Don ran their own musical comedy theater in Culver City. And at the Santa Monica firm known as Duck Soup, he writes, produces, and directs animated television commercials.

Further Confusion is incredibly lucky to have Mr. Bluth as a Guest of Honor for our Fifth Anniversary convention. His skills and experience cover such a wide range of facets of interest to folks in our small fandom that its difficult to know where to start in asking him questions.

3. ConJose, the World Science Fiction Convention Activities

ConJose is over and it was a blast! FC had a table in the fan table section selling memberships as well as current year t-shirts and videotapes. We also sponsored a Room Party in the Fairmont Hilton Saturday night. It drew well over a hundred visitors over the course of the night. Much mingling and munching was had. Finally, we've put together a special anthropomorphic showcase in the ConJose Artshow to showcase some of the very best talent our fandom has to offer and it went over quite well.

4. Hotel Information

Rooms are filling up fast. If you need a double bed room, are coming in early or staying late, don't delay as we will fill our room block on those nights first. It costs you nothing to make your reservation. For reservations, call the Doubletree reservation center at 1-800-222-TREE and request the group rate for FURCON at the San Jose Doubletree. [Current rates for the hotel are \$99.00/night for single, double, triple, or quad. For more information, please email the Hotel Liaison at hotel@furtherconfusion.org. – ye ed-otter]

5. FC Forums are go!

Our ever popular forums are available for your use at this time. Check them out by following the link right from the front web page or directly at the following URL:

<http://www.furtherconfusion.org/forums/>

Keep an eye here for all the most recent news and newsletters and let us know what you think!

6. Events News:

We also have two new exciting tracks for you. The first ever Video Game track dedicated to all you Video Game players. Plus we have the new Spirituality Track, which is planning some rather interesting panels.

If you are interested in running a panel of ANY kind, please drop a line to info@furtherconfusion.org and we'll make sure we take care of you.

[Late Breaking News: **Karen Anderson**, widow of SF writer **Poul Anderson** and a noted fantasy/SF author herself, will also be a Guest of Honor at FC 2003! – ye ed-otter]

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Membership Registration for Further Confusion 2003 is currently **\$40.00**, with **\$45.00** be the price of full membership at the door. Sponsor memberships are **\$100.00**, and Patron memberships are **\$200.00** – check out the web site for more details.

To find out more, write to the nice folks at Anthropomorphic Arts & Education (Further Confusion 2003), 105 Serra Way, PMB #236, Milpitas, CA 95035. Of course, you can e-mail them care of info@furtherconfusion.org, or check out the web site at <http://www.furtherconfusion.org/>.

ANNOUNCING... The Ursa Major Awards for 2002!

The Annual Anthropomorphic Literature and Arts of the Year awards, more commonly known as The *Ursa Major Awards*, were presented for the first time during ConFurence 2002. Making

this an annual event, we will again be awarding the Ursa Major Awards at ConFurence 2003. Once again the Award Categories include:

1. Best Anthropomorphic Motion Picture.
2. Best Anthropomorphic TV Series.
3. Best Anthropomorphic Novel.
4. Best Anthropomorphic Short Story.
5. Best Anthropomorphic Other Literary Work (Lyrics, poetry, comic strip collections, etc).
6. Best Anthropomorphic Comic Book or Strip.
7. Best Anthropomorphic Fanzine.
8. Best Anthropomorphic Published Art.
9. Best Anthropomorphic Game.

Qualifications for Nomination: To qualify for consideration in the 2002 Ursa Major Awards, the anthropomorphic work must have been released between January 1, 2002 and December 31, 2002, and contain non-human characters that have been given human traits and/or attributes. Movies such as "Air Bud" or "Lassie Come Home" are stories about talented pets, not anthropomorphic characters, and therefore would not qualify. The characters do not have to be animals, either. A movie like "Brave Little Toaster" would qualify, as it portrays household appliances on an anthropomorphic quest to find their way home. Foreign movies that are re-released in their original form, must be nominated for consideration in the year of their original release. Films that are significantly modified for American Release, however, will be considered different works, and will qualify for consideration based on when the modified version is released. Subtitled versions or accurate voice-over dubbing is considered a significant modification.

Award committee chair-being **Fred Patten** writes: Nominations for each of the categories for The Ursa Major Awards will be accepted throughout "all" of anthropomorphic fandom during the month of December, 2001. Nominations must be received postmarked between December 1, 2002 and January 7, 2003 to be considered when creating the final voting ballot [So hurry! - *ye ed-otter*].

NOTE: There is no nomination form. Nominations are accepted freeform from anyone in the fandom, from anywhere in the

world. Written nominations may be sent to The ConFurence Group, PO Box 84721, San Diego, CA 92138-4721, or Emailed to awards@confurence.net in any form you wish. Please indicate which category you are nominating for, and what your selection(s) for that category are. Whenever possible, be as complete with your nominations as you can (title, author, pub. date, etc.)

After nominations have closed, The Awards Committee will assemble five nominees from each category and create the final ballot. Even though nominations are open to all interested parties, voting on the final ballot is limited to pre-registered members of ConFurence 2003 only. In order to ensure that one person gets only one vote, the final ballots (printed on copy-resistant paper) will be mailed to pre-registered members of ConFurence 2003. The ballot will also be printed on the back of pre-registration forms, to be counted only if accompanying a valid pre-registration to ConFurence 2003. The ballot should start appearing just before Further Confusion (January 23-27, 2003) so that we may get the widest possible distribution before the voting deadline.

The ConFurence Group pre-registration forms that will be distributed at Further Confusion and other events throughout late January and February will have a voting ballot on the reverse side. This will allow new pre-registering members to vote at the time they send in their pre-registration information.

The voting deadline is March 15, 2003, two weeks after the ConFurence 2003 pre-registration deadline of March 1. Any ballots not received postmarked by that date will not be counted.

And of course, coming next April...



ConFurence 2003 – The Furry West!

Yee-haw! and howdy pawdnrs. Our 15th Annual Furry Convention is gonna be the most rootin'-tootin', high-falootin', western-style shindig for all you dogies and dog-ettes out there, with a special track of fun programming even for the little varmints attending with their kin-folk.

Be Sure to Giddy-up and join us [April 25 to 27, 2003](#) at the Hilton Burbank Airport and Convention Center in Sunny Burbank, Cali-fur-nee!

Our Native American furry bretheren are also likely to make a showing, even that infamous trickster, the Coyote. Spend time in a pow-wow or find your animal spirit... it's all gonna be a part of this year's fun!

Git out yer cowboy hats and six-shooters (rubber-band and silly-string models only, of course) and mosey on up to the bar at the Ice Cream Saloon, Dance yer tail off at the Dance Hall, browse through the Trading Post and shop from your favorite anthropomorphic dealers, gawk at all the pretty pikchers in the Art Show and Auction, or just show up to have a fun reunion with yer fellow furry friends.

[Attending Memberships](#) will be only **\$40.00** if you pre-register by March 1, 2003. At-door memberships for those critters who wait till the last minute will be **\$50.00** per person.

A handy-little pre-registration form is online in Adobe Acrobat format at <http://confurence.net/pre-reg.pdf>. You will need the free Adobe Acrobat viewer to view or print the PDF file, which is available from [Adobe.com](#).

[Super Sponsors](#): Making ConFurence work is a really hard (and expensive) job. Many of you in the past have donated extra funds to ConFurence so that we would be able to make it

a better convention for everyone. Sponsors and Super Sponsors are deserving of our highest appreciation.

Donate \$100 or more earmarked to help the convention, or to assist any of the people listed below to attend ConFurence, and we will give you a free membership plus special benefits during the convention. Smaller donations of \$25 or more, in addition to your membership, will also entitle you to special benefits at the convention. The following people have requested assistance in attending ConFurence 2003:

- The Groat Family (Jim, Rebekah, John, and Marguerite, from Wisconsin)
- Bushycat (Costumer, travelling from New York)
- Paul Kidd (Writer and Game Designer from Australia)

If you earmark your sponsorship dollars to any of the above individuals, we'll forward it at the con.

What's the latest news for CF2003?

Omaha Sternberg and Joe Staton added as Guests of ConFurence 2003.

Omaha Sternberg created the original Cabaret Fur le Dance back at ConFurence 3 in 1992, and is returning to our convention after being absent for the last few years. Of course, this means that the Cabaret is also back, and how! **Joe Staton** is a renowned comic book artist, one of the leaders in the industry, having worked for 27 comics publishers on 80+ titles in his 30 year career. Joe is currently working on the *Scooby Doo* comic, and doing work for Shanda Fantasy Arts. They join our Guests **Ruben Avila**, **Roy D. Pounds II**, **Dark Natasha**, **Theresa Mather**, and **Leslie Fish**!

Announcing the Furry West Homestead Act of ConFurence 2003

Be it known to all "Furry West" travelers that The ConFurence Group, acting as agent to the lands known as The Hilton Burbank Airport and Convention Center, do hereby bequeath the following benefits to those who stake a land

claim for hotel rooms during ConFurence 2003:

All furry patrons who stake their claim to land (ie: reserve a hotel room for CF2003) by February 15, 2003 will be issued a "Furry Homesteader" ID badge, which will be waiting for you as you check in to your hotel room. Furry Homesteader badge holders will have special privileges during the convention, including (but not limited to) the following:

- Free attending membership to ConFurence 2003: The Furry West.
- No waiting in the Registration line, as the Hotel will have your badge waiting for you.
- Front-of-line privilege and special seating at the Cabaret Fur-le-Dance (\$10 required at the door, adults only) featuring the long-awaited return of Omaha Sternberg.
- Advance viewing of the ConFurence ArtShow, one full hour before other attendees are permitted to enter.
- \$10 worth of "furry cash" for use at the Ice Cream Saloon and Charity Casino, redeemable for various prizes (All proceeds benefit this year's named charity). "Furry cash" may also be used to purchase Cabaret seating.

Standard rooms at the Hilton Burbank Airport are only \$102 per night for one or two guests (plus local tariffs). Junior Suites are only \$135 per night for one or two guests (plus local tariffs). Third and fourth guests staying in any parcel land (hotel room) are an additional \$20 each guest per night.

More information is available on the CF2003 web page, or you can read the Homestead Act directly at <http://confurence.net/cf2003/homestead.pdf>. [For snail mail, send an info request to the ConFurence P.O. Box]

The Hilton's online reservation System now takes ConFurence registrations.

You can now log onto the Hilton's web site (www.hilton.com) and use the 3-letter Event Code "COC" to reserve your room at CF2003's discount rates. Note: If you are going to become a "Furry Homesteader" you will have to

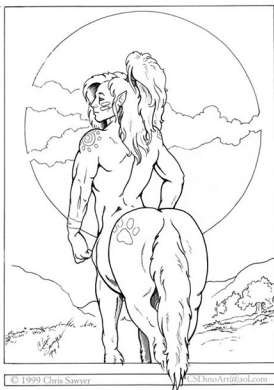
make your reservation first, and keep track of the reservation confirmation number.

Send us your Artwork!

We are soliciting artwork that matches this year's theme "The Furry West" for use on this website, in our mailings, and in the Souvenir Program Book. More information about submission guidelines and how to get your art in our Art Show is available by sending an EMail to artshow@confurence.net and reading the autoreply message.

For more information on The Original West Coast Furry Convention, check out the web site at www.confurence.net, or, send a snail-mail request too: The ConFurence Group, PO Box 84721, San Diego, CA 92138-4721.

Keep your eyes on this space in our next issue for more information about other furry events coming up this spring and summer. Happy New Year, you all! And stay furry! Rod O'Riley, your



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